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Marcos Asks To Come Home

MANILA, Philippines (AP) Ferdinand Marcos has formally asked for the first time to return to his homeland, prompting panic selling on the stock exchange today as traders voiced fears for the government's stability.

The ex-president, living in exile in Hawaii, filed a petition Wednesday with the anti-corruption court demanding the right to defend himself when a former Cabinet minister testifies against him in November.

Last week, the court ruled that Marcos had the right to cross-examine former Public Works Minister Baltazar Aquino when he gives evidence in a deposition hearing Nov. 7.

It was the first time Marcos formally sought permission from any Philippine institution to return to the land he fled after the February 1986 uprising that toppled his administration and propelled Corazon Aquino to the presidency.

Marcos asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to issue him a passport within three days and to request the U.S. government to lift restrictions that bar him from leaving Hawaii.

U.S. officials have said they will not allow Marcos to leave without Mrs. Aquino's consent. There was no immediate comment from Mrs. Aquino on Marcos' petition.

In the petition, Marcos said the court had no choice but to grant his request or order the Philippine government to halt a preliminary investigation that authorities say will lead to the filing of formal criminal charges against Marcos.

Solicitor-General Francisco Chavez said Baltazar Aquino who is not related to the president will testify about alleged bribes paid by Japanese firms during the Marcos administration.

Marcos said that as a lawyer, he demanded the right to represent himself.

"The only possible way of lawfully preventing the undersigned from personally appearing and defending himself in all such cases is for the ... incumbent government to dismiss (any charges) with prejudice," Marcos said, meaning no charges would ever be filed.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters Wednesday that the military was drawing up security plans in the event Marcos comes home.

Today, share prices on the Manila Stock Exchange fell 20 points, and brokers said the drop reflected concern over a possible Marcos return.

Stock prices began falling Monday as rumors spread the former president would come back soon, and one dealer predicted a 30 percent decline unless Mrs. Aquino takes an unequivocal stand against Marcos returning.

Luisabel Cortez, clerk of the anti-corruption court, told The Associated Press the three justices were studying the Marcos petition but had not decided whether to call a hearing.

The Aquino government has been under pressure from Swiss authorities to file formal charges against Marcos before they will provide information about secret bank accounts Marcos allegedly

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maintains in Switzerland.

Government officials claim Marcos embezzled up to \$10 billion during his administration and stashed millions in Swiss bank accounts.

Philippine law bans trials in absentia, and officials have delayed filing criminal charges for fear Marcos would insist on returning.

Last Saturday, military Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa said the armed forces command would not try to block Marcos' return but noted that the former president's presence would cause "security risks."

Marcos still enjoys support among conservatives in both the general population and the ranks of the armed forces.

His supporters have been agitating for Mrs. Aquino to let Marcos come home for the funeral of his mother, Josefa Edralin-Marcos, who died May 4. Family members and Marcos supporters say no date for the burial will be set until the ousted president is allowed to come home.

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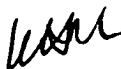
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15 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Congressional Affairs
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
STAT SUBJECT: 1973 Report [] for Senator Specter

STAT 1. At our 26 July 1988 meeting, Senator Specter asked whether a 1973 report [] could be declassified. I recall there was some concern about this, but I don't recall what kind of an answer we were able to give him. My cryptic handwritten note says, "A.S. will talk to State."

2. Could you refresh my memory?



William H. Webster

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